Wednesday
November 8, 2017

TODAY **53 / 45** 60% chance of scattered showers

THURSDAY **62 / 47** Clearing skies

FRIDAY **70 / 56** Partly sunny

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NEW DETAILS DAWNNA DUKES CASE

Dukes assails legislative peers, media coverage

She says her legislation was undermined, calls Statesman a 'rag.'

By Jonathan Tilove
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State Rep. Dawnna Dukes, D-Austin, kicked off her bid for a 12th term in the Texas House at the Austin Club on Tuesday, hours after lobbing the explosive allegation that fellow Austin Democratic Reps. Donna Howard and Celia Israel were behind an effort to keep her from winning re-election.

Dukes asserted that Howard and Israel undermined her legislation behind the scenes and kept her colleagues from offering her the courtesy of voting for her when she was not at her desk.

"Donna Howard was the ringleader, and Celia Israel followed up," Dukes told Texas Tribune co-founder and CEO Evan Smith at a public event.

Both Howard and Israel were taken aback by what they said were groundless accusations.

"I was shocked and didn't know what to make of those comments," Israel said. "She didn't talk to me about them."

Dukes also described the American-Statesman's coverage of her, which preceded her indictment by the Travis County district attorney's office on 13 felony corruption charges and two misdemeanor counts, as like that of a "rag magazine, pushing the DA to indict."

"That was malicious," Dukes said.

Dukes said that the Statesman never told her side of the story, and at some point she stopped responding to its inquiries.

The district attorney's office last month dropped its corruption case against Dukes.

The Statesman wrote numerous stories about Dukes leading up to her indictment and since,

Dukes continued on **A13**

Howard

Israel

State Rep. Dawnna Dukes, D-Austin, answers a question from Evan Smith of the Texas Tribune on Tuesday at the Austin Club. Dukes said Reps. Donna Howard and Celia Israel were behind an effort to keep her from winning re-election. MARK MATSON / FOR AMERICAN-STATESMAN

ELECTION 2017

Get the Latest Central Texas election results

See **mystatesman.com/elections** for Tuesday's Austin-area and statewide election results.

Here's what topped the ballots and how the early voting results were trending:

AUSTIN SCHOOL BONDS
Austin voters were saying yes to $1.05 billion in school facility bonds, with 68 percent in favor of the bond proposition in early returns.

TRAVIS COUNTY ROADS
Travis County's $93.4 million in bonds for road and drainage projects was passing with 70 percent of the early votes, while $91.5 million in parks and land projects had a similar lead.

STATE PROPOSITIONS
All seven state constitutional amendments were on the path to approval.

LEANDER SCHOOL BONDS
$454 million for four new schools and other projects was passing in early returns.

LAKE TRAVIS SCHOOLS
A $253 million bond package for two new schools and a "tax swap" plan were passing with about three-quarters of the early vote.

EANES SCHOOLS
Nearly 90 percent of the early voters supported a tax swap in the Eanes district.

BASTROP SCHOOLS BONDS
Almost two-thirds of the early voters rejected an $88 million bond to upgrade facilities and boost capacity.

EXPANDED COVERAGE: TEXAS CHURCH SHOOTING

Wounded town tries to make sense of evil

'Everybody dies,' shooter shouted; details add to picture of troubled mental facility escapee who targeted kids.

Rosanne Solis, who survived Sunday's mass shooting at the First Baptist Church in Sutherland Springs, looks at her gunshot wound Tuesday at her home in the small town. She and Joaquin Ramirez were in their regular seats in the fourth row when gunman Devin Patrick Kelley arrived. JAY JANNER / AMERICAN-STATESMAN

By Eric Dexheimer and Sebastian Herrera
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SUTHERLAND SPRINGS — Two days after a man entered a rural church service dressed in military-style gear and opened fire, killing 26 and wounding 20, local, state and federal law enforcement investigators and residents of Sutherland Springs continued the essentially impossible task of trying to make sense of the incomprehensible.

The accumulation of details began to add a little clarity to the mystery of why someone would terrorize a tight-knit community gathering to worship less than an hour from where he grew up and attended high school.

On Tuesday, residents recalled that five days before he arrived at the First Baptist Church of Sutherland Springs dressed in black tactical garb and carrying a semi-automatic assault weapon, Devin Patrick Kelley had attended the same church's annual fall festival with his children.

That evening, he mingled with community members, some of whom saw his attendance as promising evidence he was emerging from a personal rough patch.

Kelley was estranged from his wife, whose mother was a member of the church. Neither his wife nor her parents were at the church Sunday.

Details trickling out of the horrific scene inside the church Sunday morning, too, defied comprehension.

Joaquin Ramirez and Rosanne Solis, a longtime couple who lived near the church, had been sitting

Shooting continued on **A6**

MORE INSIDE

» Authorities will refrain from mentioning gunman's name, **A6**
» Company's co-workers mourn loss of beloved mechanic, **A7**

DOUG MILLS / THE NEW YORK TIMES

» President Donald Trump says tougher gun laws would not have prevented church shooting, **A5**

» Pickup driver, neighbor who grabbed gun called heroes, **A7**
» Psychologist: Town residents could experience PTSD, **A7**
» Churches, groups, companies offer ways to help families, **A8**

THE SUSPECT

Other incidents revealed; Cornyn bill boosts checks

By Sean Collins Walsh
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As revelations continue to emerge about the criminal and mental health history of the man who shot and killed 26 people in a Sutherland Springs church, U.S. Sen. John Cornyn on Tuesday announced he will push for legislation aimed at strengthening the federal background check system for gun purchasers.

The Air Force on Monday said that it failed to submit Devin Patrick Kelley's 2012 military court conviction for domestic abuse to the FBI's National Instant Criminal Background Check System, which would have prevented him from purchasing firearms like the military-style assault weapon he used in Sunday's massacre.

The bill by Cornyn, R-Texas, would "incentivize" federal agencies to more consistently submit information to the database.

"Critically important information from the suspect's criminal history was not uploaded into the relevant background check databases, even though a federal law clearly requires that it be done," Cornyn said on the Senate floor Tuesday.

Despite being required by law to include felony-level offenses in the database, the number of mil-

Suspect continued on **A6**

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NATION & WORLD, A12

Trump shifts tone, calls on N. Korea to negotiate

In South Korea, president calls on Pyongyang to "make a deal" on reining in its nuclear weapons.

INDEX

Austin360	D1
Business	B7
Deaths	B4
Sports	C1
Classifieds	C6

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